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cannot yet be said to be definitively settled, although building operations have been generally resumed. No decisive victory has been gained by either party, but the Building Contractors' Council has the decided advantage. Three or four of the labor unions have openly withdrawn from the Building Trades' Council and entered into agreements with the contractors to work on the old terms, but not under the direction of a central authority. Other contractors have not demanded such a formal withdrawal from the council, and the men are returning to work with a silent understanding that no interference from the central council shall take place. The Building Trades' Council is not dissolved, but its authority has been broken, its personnel has been changed by the removal of its president, and it is supposed that if it survives at all, it will do so only by radically changing its organization and tactics.

How deeply this struggle is still felt among the business interests of the city can be seen by declarations made in the newspapers,¹ by prominent capitalists and corporations that no contracts for buildings, although needed, will be given before more settled relations are established between contractors and laborers. As these "settled relations" demand the abolition of the walking delegate and the sympathetic strike, the unions will have to find other ties of federations than the existing ones if they are to maintain a general organization.

As matters stand, the resistance of the men has been broken through their exhaustion, and the great strike has virtually ended. Whether it will remain dead when the building operations resume full swing is altogether a matter of conjecture.

MUNICIPAL TRADING IN ENGLAND.²

A JOINT select committee of Parliament has recently brought in a report on the extent and character of municipal trading in the United Kingdom. The present report is preliminary only, the committee having recommended their reappointment during the next session of Parliament in order to complete the inquiry. The Minutes of Evidence, however, taken from thirty-six witnesses during sixteen sessions of the

¹ See, e. g., *Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 29 and 30.

² See the *Report from the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on Municipal Trading; together with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix*. London: September 1900. Pp. 513.

committee, are presented and occupy 343 pages. Of the witnesses, representing various municipal corporations, building trades, investors and administrators of note, nineteen believed that experience had justified the extension of municipal ownership to certain utilities, such as tramways, gas plants, water works, electric lighting, markets, abattoirs, tenements, etc. Sixteen are opposed to the assumption of enterprises outside of purely governmental functions. This opposition is based principally on economic grounds, although the system is attacked because it involves the sacrifice of the individual, without guarantying a compensating benefit to society. Naturally the witnesses urge that the conflict of economic interests has led to political strife, which endangers the political system.

The portion of the preliminary report which is of especial value at this stage of the inquiry, is the appendix of 150 pages. The material gathered consists of 23 statistical studies which present the uncolored facts, whose meaning the committee is to weigh. From this one learns the marvelous extent of municipal trading in England and Wales and Scotland. It is startling to see to what degree socialism has in practice supplanted individualism, despite the continual reaffirmation in Britain of individualistic theories. There are 265 municipalities engaged in productive undertakings, distributed throughout England and Wales from Southampton to Carlisle. In Scotland there are 74. That is, on the island 339 out of 749, or not far from half the municipalities, carry on corporate industry. To these should be added the scores of towns and rural districts supplied by the municipal trading companies.

The industries concerned include the following: waterworks; gas-works; electric lighting; tramways; artisans' dwellings; model lodging-houses; baths and wash-houses; piers and quays; garbage plants; abattoirs; insurance; manufacture and sale of ice; cold storage; shops, bazaars, saloons, etc., on recreation grounds; nurseries; crematories, etc.

The capital involved is nearly half a billion dollars, of which 94 per cent. is borrowed. Of this sum the greater part is invested in water and gas works, the amounts being respectively 242 and 101 million dollars. The following are the sums invested in the various industries named: tramways, 16.1 million dollars; electric lighting, 17.1 million dollars; baths, 7.5 million dollars; artisans' dwellings, 3.6 million dollars. The annual expenditure authorized by Parliament and the local government board has increased from an average of 25 million dollars in 1890 to 195 million dollars in 1899, and 155 million

dollars in 1900. With the increase in industrial enterprises has gone an increase of municipal debt, which in 1896-7 was one and a quarter billion dollars, an increase of nearly 200 per cent. since 1874-5. The municipal rates have increased during the period of expansion since 1892 from £2 to £2 6s. 6d. per capita in London, and from 17s. 3d. to £1 0s. 9d. outside London, whereas the total for England and Wales has increased from £1 0s. 7d. to £1 4s. 5d. The rate in the pound on rateable value has likewise increased in the kingdom and in London from 5 to 6 pence in the pound.

In addition to the tables of general statistics, the appendix contains detailed statements of the investments of the individual municipalities in productive enterprises. The present volume makes no attempt to weigh the evidence. It remains for a future report to pass judgment on the results of municipal enterprise. The expense, the risk, the wastefulness, the danger, both financial and social, are here set forth. The jury is to continue the hearing before it decides whether the benefits to property owners and to society justify the assumption by organized citizenship of the grave responsibilities of capitalistic enterprises.

WILLIAM H. ALLEN.

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THE CENSUS OF CUBA.¹

THOUGH scarcely more than a year has elapsed since the enumerators started upon their rounds in Cuba, the final report on the census has made its appearance. Such promptness of publication calls for remark, not only because it finds few precedents in American census work, but also because the present undertaking was beset by peculiar difficulties, which, under a less energetic management, might easily have led to delay. A lively picture of the obstacles in the way of the field work is given in the reports of the six supervisors. The people—"victims," as one patriotic gentleman observes, "of the machinations and cupidity of the last administration"—were ignorant and suspicious of any governmental inquiry. To get to them was difficult, because the rounds had to be made in the rainy season and the war had left many districts without roads or bridges. After reading the

¹ *Report on the Census of Cuba*, 1899. J. P. Sanger, director; Henry Gannett, Walter F. Willcox, statistical experts. Washington, 1900.